

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

Rev. Melvin L. Shakespeare

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EDITORIALS

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Sports Questions and Answers

By Alvin Moses (ANP).

Q. Dear Al Moses: Southpaw Gene Bearden, Cleveland Indians "trouble shooter" is a knuckleball pitcher of rare ability. Would you venture a guess as to how many knucklers Gene throws in facing nine batters? What other pitch is he famous for?—Parker Woods, Sewickley, Pa.

A. This would have to be a guess—pure and simple—but I'd say Bearden throws four knucklers to any two other pitches in his kitbag. He has a beautiful "slider" but his knuckle ball actually—waltzes-in-the-breeze.

Q. Who would you consider the most promising American girl tennis player from all you've seen or heard on the new crop of tennis players?—S. H. L., Prairie View Club, L. I.

A. Maureen Connelly, San Diego, Calif., a 15-year-old West coast marvel.

Q. At their best, I would rate Ray Dandridge, Jud Wilson, Bingo DeMoss, Johnny Beckwith and Blainey Hall with any players the majors have raved about since baseball came into existence. Would you agree on this point?—Lou Walters, Jersey City.

A. Beckwith and Jud Wilson, tremendous hitters and all-around ballhawks, bow to no other players at their favorite position—I can tell you that much, DeMoss was a "fan Eddie Collins," so let it go at that, eh Mortimer.

Q. Sick in this hospital for weary months, I am getting my nurse, Miss Jones, to write this. Name some of the Negro ball players who have had big league tryouts this season—Lawrence Johnson, NYC.

A. Hank Thompson, Jersey City; Orestes Minceo, Cleveland; Arlie Wilson, San Diego; Lucius (Luke) Easter, San Diego; T. Crowe, Boston Braves; Ford Smith, Jersey City; Luis Marquez, Newark Bears; Frank Austin, Newark; Monty Irvin, Jersey City; Jim Pendleton, St. Paul; and one or two more I can't recall just now.

Q. Read your recent brilliant story on Negro jockeys, "Real Vanishing Americans," and thought it was definitely "top-

drawer-stuff," Alvin. What does a race horse weigh? How long did Stymie race? "Powder" Horne, Morgantown, W. Va.

A. About 1,100 pounds. He is usually eight feet long and moves about 54 feet per second. Stymie was a most durable horse, lasting seven years. He was a great finisher and was seldom (if ever) pushed at the start. He was through in '47 when he lost his finishing kick.

Q. Mel Allen is a favorite sportscaster of mine as well as members of my large family. He is my idea of an American who gives due credit to all with no regard to race, color or religion. Could he be from the south as I've been told?—George Tate, Richmond, Va.

A. Back in 1935, Mel Allen was a senior at Alabama University's law school—believe-it-or-not! He is a real great guy in my book and I am proud to enjoy his confidence and friendship.

Q. What year did Ike Williams slaughter Bob Montgomery? What was the final round, the approximate number of fans in attendance, the battleground?—Robert Tydings, St. Paul, Minn.

A. In 1944 Ike Williams snapped Montgomery's winning streak of 33 wins by halting the "bobcat" in 12 rounds at Philly. Actual ring figures list 14,807 at the scene.

Q. Who holds the shotput record?—Percy Little, Jackson, Miss.

A. Chuck Fonville.

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by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent
 STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Of all the caravans to toil their weary way through Nebraska's Platte Valley prior to the building of the railroad, none were more strange and perhaps none endured more suffering than the Mormon handcart, expeditions of the years 1856-60.

Jay Monaghan, the well-known western author, describes these expeditions in the current issue of *Nebraska History*. The story he tells is one of suffering and hardship seldom equalled in the annals of the West.

The handcart caravans were organized by Brigham Young, the famed Mormon leader, as a means of getting converts, too poor even to afford wagons, from the Missouri River to Salt Lake. The vehicles used in the caravans were light, two-wheeled carts. A pair of shafts were attached to a crossbar, long enough for three or four people to walk abreast and push. There were a few traces in front for pulling.

A loaded handcart weighed about 500 pounds and was to be pulled by five people. Brigham Young estimated that once accustomed to walking the emigrants would make between 25 and 30 miles a day—considerably better than the average for heavily loaded ox-drawn wagons.

The principal outfitting place for the handcart caravans was Florence, formerly the Mormon Winter Quarters, and now a suburb of Omaha. From there they followed the Mormon Trail westward across Nebraska along the north side of the Platte.

During 1856, the year in which the handcart plan was inaugurated, a total of five expeditions left—Florence for Salt Lake. The early ones, enjoying good weather, covered the distance to Salt Lake in record time, to be met by a brass band, a military escort, and high officials of the Mormon church.

The last two companies, however, got started so late from Florence that they ran into snow and heavy weather in the mountains. Both reached Zion during the month of November, but of the 500 who left Florence in the fourth company, 67 perished along the way. In the fifth company of 576 persons, probably 150 died along the way—accounts do not agree.

In any event, the handcart companies suffered under a mode of traveling that made those who went west in covered wagons ap-

In Civil Service



JOYCE WILLIAMS

Miss Joyce Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams of 2224 R street, has recently received an appointment as clerk typist in the department of Child Welfare at the capitol. Miss Williams was a commercial arts major at the University of Nebraska. She has been working part time as clerical assistant to Dr. E. Z. Palmer, Department of Business Research at the university, and part time Voice stenographer. She was placed by competitive examination.

Senate Would Aid States Program For Pupils Health

WASHINGTON. (ANP). The senate passed a bill last Friday, which will provide federal aid to assist the states in making more adequate provisions for the health of school children.

The bill guarantees the same health services for children attending public schools maintained for minority races in a state which maintains by law separate public schools, as are provided for children in other public schools in the state.

The bill was passed by voice vote and referred to the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

It declares, "In order that no American child shall come to adult life with physical or mental defects or conditions which can be prevented or corrected at an early age, it shall be the national policy to provide assistance to the several states to enable them to improve health services for school children for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of physical and mental defects and conditions of school children, with special reference to the correction of defects and conditions likely to interfere with the normal growth and development and educational progress of children."

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